



USS Seattle AOE-3

Veteran's Association

Newsletter



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Issue # 14 4th Quarter - 2015 Issued: Nov., 2015

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TIME? Reunion # 7 is in the books – now we're preparing for reunion # 8 in Washington DC – hope to see you all there.

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REUNION # 7

Here's some photos from the Branson reunion – a great time was had by all.



Would love to show all the photos – there were a lot – but you can check them out on the website. <http://www.ussseattleaoe-3.org> See for yourself how much fun everyone was having at this reunion.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shipmates,

Vic and I have returned from Washington DC and the reunion is on and I believe we have a really exciting and fun filled agenda or itinerary planned for our 8th reunion in DC. As most of you know about DC the biggest problem was not which venues to select but which ones we could not select due to time.

We will be staying at the Westin hotel close to the Dulles airport, signup should be open in a couple of weeks. Since most of our tours will be in the DC area we will arrange to have bus service pick us up and drop us off each day. Good news is almost all venues are free with just a few exceptions.

While in the DC area, Vic and I went to Arlington National Cemetery and discovered the USSSVA could request a wreath laying service during the reunion week. We completed the request and it was granted on the following Monday (Aug 04, 2016, at 1:15 PM), there is a long story behind this we will tell at the reunion. Bottom line is, we will gather at the tomb of the unknown soldier and have the service for all USS Seattle sailors no longer with us.

David Holton is working on a Whitehouse and Capital tour but the details are a little sketchy right now. We will be sending out some details a little later. I can say this, if you want to attend the Whitehouse and Capital tours, we will have to have everyone fill out a security form, on a spread sheet because we have a group. But remember, once this list is submitted and approved, it cannot be added to.

David Stein is working on another tour option, a day trip to Annapolis for a Navy Academy visit. Details of the visit will be announced once we firm things up.

As things progress we will be sending out updates and announcements. Most Important thing to remember, if you want to go on the DC Capital and Whitehouse tours you MUST submit your information, including SS # well before the reunion, maybe as early as February 2016 for a security background search. Keep your eye on this space...

We will set up a spreadsheet that will require each person's name, address, home phone, SSN and any other info the security clearance will require and let everyone know when to submit their info.

Bill Norris
USSSVA President

COMING SOON!

Over 200 Pages of USS SEATTLE History

Shipmate Rich Toma has spent several years researching and writing the history of the USS SEATTLE (AOE-3) and it will soon be ready for purchase through the Ship's Store. It will be a hard bound book full of history and photos of her being built, bios of all the Captains, underway photos and all the ports of call and awards earned over her time at sea and much more. It will be a MUST HAVE if you served on SEATTLE. More details on when it will be ready for purchase (hoping for December 1, 2015) and pricing. Keep watching the web site and your emails for updates.

WE NEED

Your Sea Stories and Memories of Your Time on SEATTLE!

If you have ever attended a SEATTLE Reunion, you know one of the highlights is listening to and sharing stories of time on SEATTLE. It is good to hear first-hand accounts of stories we heard about, but were missing parts of. Those top-side did not know many of the facts about the situations and how fires were put out below. Those below did not see or know some of the experiences of Un-Reps. Everyone has a story to tell or a memory to share about serving on SEATTLE. NOW YOU CAN!

We are creating a book of SEATTLE stories and memories from the officers and crew. Once we gather a bunch of stories we will publish them in a hard-bound book that will be a great keepsake for years to come. Here is how to add your story to the book:

1. Go to www.catchmystory.com
2. Click on MY BOOK
3. Enter Username: Stories Password: Seattle
4. Click on ADD A CHAPTER
5. In the Chapter Name box, enter your name, rank and years served.
6. Go to text editor and begin typing your story.
7. Be sure to SAVE BOOK before leaving the site.
8. To see how your story will look when printed and see the other stories already completed, Click on PREVIEW.
9. Drag your chapter from AVAILABLE to SELECTED
10. Click on PREVIEW button and you will see the cover of the book and all the stories.

PLEASE take the time to add your story to the book! The book will be printed and made available in the Ships' Store as soon as we fill up the book! SO GET UNDERWAY NOW!

If you have questions or problems with the book, contact Shipmate David Holton at david@catchmystory.com or call at 704-698-5948.

REUNION 8

Here is some info on the hotel selected. More to follow as we get it.



The Westin Hotel in D.C.



The Lobby of the Westin



A view from one of the rooms.



The Breakfast Buffet line.

Vic Hellberg provided the pictures and info and he and Bill were both very impressed with this hotel and the amenities they have.

SHIPS STORE

On another note, Vic wanted to remind everyone to check out the ships store with over 50 items for sale there is bound to be at least one you don't have and would like. Maybe a Christmas present for yourself.

http://www.usseattleaoe-3.org/class_custom.cfm?page_id=241509 ← here is a link directly to the store.

Letter From Shipmate RAY PIERCE

Shipmates,

Although the USS Seattle AOE-3 Veterans Association was formed as a social association to keep alive the memories of our ship and her crews; two of the proudest moments were when we as a group stepped up to help. First was disaster aid to the church in New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina. Second was the ALS ice bucket challenge during the reunion in Branson. To me these were defining minutes of our association's character and determination to make a difference in the world we live in today.

I have shared a vision with our leadership for the association to continue make a difference by adopting and supporting a worthy cause. I had in my mind a veteran's support organization such as the Wounded Warrior Project but somehow that does not seem personal enough. The support of ALS foundation was and is personal due to the effects that terrible disease has had on our Shipmate Tom Filo. Alzheimer's has taken shipmates Ted Lloyd and John Volk.

It is easy to see that many non-profit organizations could benefit from our support. The question now becomes do we want to continue to support a cause? Do we want choose a particular organization or continue ad-hoc?

Please send me your thoughts and suggestions at ray.pierce1950@gmail.com. I will compile the responses and present at our board meeting in November.

Thank you,
Ray Pierce

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE



During the Branson Reunion, a bunch of Seattle sailors volunteered to do the Ice Bucket Challenge in Tom Filo's name. Pictured above is the ice dump a near perfect shot captured by shipmate Bob Miller. Tom Filo is also pictured above on the right.

Tom was struck by Lou Gehrig's disease last year and fought the battle for nearly 10 months before he finally lost and went on to join other shipmates who have passed on before us. He will be sorely missed and our prayers go out to Tom's family and friends in a very difficult time.

The association raised over \$1,000 that was donated in Tom's name to the ALS foundation near where Tom lived.

This stands out as one of our finest moments. Giving back to the community, and to those in need who are fighting a horrible disease. There is no cure for ALS so it is a death sentence to those who are diagnosed with it.

Thank You Note
From the Family of
TOM FILO

On behalf of the
Tom Filo family
I can not thank
you enough for your
generous donation to
the ALS of Michigan
in Tom's honor.
Thank you also for the
gorgeous floral
spray for Tom's
funeral.
He had just the
send off.
He will be missed
Thank you
every

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us
Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

Family of
Tom Filo
USS Seattle Shipmate